

Press Release

April 26, 2004 – SDS Enters into Cooperative Research And Development Agreement With AFRL

SDS International ([SDS](#)) and the Air Force Research Lab (AFRL) have entered into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) to advance the development of a new Joint Close Air Support (JCAS) system to more effectively meet the training needs of the United States Air Force and other Joint Service users. This CRADA was implemented following AFRL's purchase of the Indirect Fire-Forward Air Control Trainer (I-FACT) simulation system that already satisfies many of the JCAS requirements. The I-FACT, a joint SDS/FATS product, is the first commercially available system designed to train ground controllers in the tactics, techniques and procedures necessary to conduct successful joint close air support operations.

During phase one of this collaborative project, SDS will work with AFRL and FATS to examine current military training shortfalls, and using SDS and FATS technologies, demonstrate that technology can solve many of these training issues. The overall technical task will be to explore, develop, and integrate technologies that would provide a high-fidelity mission training and rehearsal environment supporting Distributed Mission Operations and Training for JCAS and Special Tactics (ST) operators. The resulting technology/systems will enable service personnel worldwide to conduct mission training and rehearsal using tailored, dynamic scenarios that are relevant to mission tasking, and can be linked and networked with other simulators. I-FACT will serve as the baseline technology/system used for JCAS assessment under this CRADA.

[SDS](#) is a veteran-owned, operations-oriented small-business providing a broad range of services to government and commercial clients worldwide. Core competencies include Education and Training, Test and Evaluation, Analytical and Technical Services, and PC-Based Simulation, Training, and Mission Rehearsal Products and Services.

Technical POC: Ed Bryan
ebryan@sdslink.com

SDS International
One Crystal Park • 2011 Crystal Drive • Suite 100 • Arlington, Virginia 22202
(703) 553-7535 • Fax (703) 979-7447
www.sdslink.com